

Your Question:

Is ECS aware of other states who use common prerequisites to ensure students know which courses they need to complete before transferring to a college or university to complete a program? Specifically, how common prerequisites are defined and what criteria is used for selection.

Our Response:

Education Commission of the States found that four other states (Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana and Missouri) include common prerequisites within their guaranteed transfer of an associate degree policies. Additionally, North Carolina includes pre-major courses in their Comprehensive Articulation Agreement. The states below do not specifically define common prerequisites; however, some require faculty advisory groups to identify the common courses and prerequisites across public institutions. Arkansas and Louisiana include common prerequisites in their common course numbering systems. Kentucky provides this in the community and technical college system. All five states have transferable core of lower-division courses where the majority of these common prerequisites could be housed. The large majority of states providing guaranteed transfer of an associate degree (2+2 programs) do not specify if they require or identify common prerequisite courses.

Arkansas: In 2011, [Ark. Code Ann. 6-61-231](#) incorporated common prerequisite courses into their minimum core curriculum and transfer agreements. The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board was required to identify common prerequisite course and course substitutions for degree programs across all public institutions. All public institutions were required to collaborate to form four-year faculty advisory panels and two-year faculty advisory panels that recommend major program prerequisites, course substitutions and elective requirements to be included in the state minimum core curriculum. The common course numbering system also must include the thirty-five hour general education core and major program prerequisites included in the state minimum core curriculum. All common courses are housed in the [Arkansas Course Transfer System](#) and must be approved by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

Kentucky: [Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. 164.2951](#) mandated that the Council on Postsecondary Education, in collaboration with the public universities and community and technical colleges develop, implement and maintain a Kentucky Community and Technical College System statewide course numbering system for lower-division general education and program-specific prerequisite courses that include the same learning outcomes. Students transferring with an approved associate of arts or associate of science degree who complete the prerequisite learning outcomes for a bachelor's program are not required to repeat or take any additional lower-level courses to fulfill bachelor degree requirements in the same major.

Louisiana: In 2009, [La. Stat. Ann. 17:3163](#) requires the transfer of general education courses and common degree program prerequisites. The statute guarantees that every graduate of a community college awarded an approved for transfer associate of arts or an associate of science degree shall be deemed to have met all general education and other core curriculum requirements and must be granted admission to the upper division of any state public four-year college or university.

Missouri: Similar to common prerequisites, [Board Policy 301.12](#) states that any student who completed an articulated associate degree will be accepted as having completed lower-division general education and prerequisite courses equivalent to the lower-division general education requirements completed by native students in the same

degree program. The Missouri Department of Higher Education provides an [online resource](#) for students to research course equivalencies at public institutions across the state.

North Carolina: The [Comprehensive Articulation Agreement](#) establishes the procedures governing the transfer of credits for students who transfer from a [North Carolina Community College](#) to a University of North Carolina institutions. The AA and AS programs require a total of sixty or sixty-one semester hours for graduation and are transferable to any UNC institution. The overall total is comprised of lower-division general education and pre-major courses. The AA and AS programs include two components including Universal General Education Transfer component and additional general education, pre-major and elective courses. The agreement encourages students to select a transfer major and preferred transfer institution before completing 30 semester hours and should select pre-major courses based on the intended major and transfer institution. The Universal General Education Transfer Component and Other Required General Education courses will be drawn from courses designated in the North Carolina Community College Combined Course Library as being transferable general education. Students are directed to pre-majors for specifics regarding courses and distribution.